

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 06114 01 OF 02 161632Z

40

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 L-02 PM-03 DODE-00 SAJ-01 PRS-01 DRC-01 IO-03

SP-01 NEA-06 EB-03 DLOS-03 ACDA-10 /077 W

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R 161623Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0418

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

CINCUSAFE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 06114

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT GREEK-TURKISH  
TENSIONS

SUMMARY: LATEST ASSESSMENT FROM BRITISH EMBASSY IN  
ATHENS HAS FCO WORRIED ABOUT WHERE GREEK-TURKISH TEN-  
SIONS MAY BE LEADING. THERE HAVE BEEN EXCHANGES OF FOR-  
MAL PROTESTS OVER TERRITORIAL INCURSIONS BETWEEN GREECE  
AND TURKEY DURING PAST WEEK, THOUGH BRITISH ARE AS UN-  
AWARE AS WE OF ANY TURKISH "PROTEST TO NATO" ON GREEK  
ARMAMENT. BRITISH WISH TO AVOID TAKING SIDES IN DISPUTE  
AND ARE THINKING OF AUTHORIZING A SECOND TALK WITH NATO  
SYG LUNS TO UNDERSCORE THEIR CONTINUING CONCERN. END  
SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 LONDON 06114 01 OF 02 161632Z

1. FCO RECEIVED TELEGRAPHIC ASSESSMENT FROM EMBASSY IN ATHENS MAY 15, GENERAL TONE OF WHICH WAS DESCRIBED TO US AS WORRYING. THINGS ARE NOT GETTING ANY BETTER IN GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONSHIP, ASSESSMENT CONCLUDES. MENTION IS MADE OF THREE INCIDENTS OVER PAST WEEK INVOLVING FORMAL PROTESTS LODGED BY GREECE WITH TURKEY (OVER TERRITORIAL INCURSIONS BY FISHING BOAT, GUNBOAT, AND AIRCRAFT OVER-FLIGHT) AS WELL AS POSSIBLE INCIDENT OF GREEK GUNBOAT FIRING AT TURKISH FISHING VESSEL PROTESTED BY TURKEY TO GREECE.
2. BRITISH EMBASSY POINTS OUT PRESENT GOVERNMENTS IN BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY DO NOT INSPIRE CONFIDENCE AS EXEMPT FROM IRRATIONAL REACTIONS. TOUGH PUBLIC STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE BY GOVERNMENT LEADERS ON BOTH SIDES (INCLUDING PM ANDROUTSOPOULOS' SPEECH REPORTED ATHENS 2773). FURTHERMORE, EVEN SOME CIVILIAN GREEK POLITICAL LEADERS WITHOUT CONNECTIONS TO PRESENT MILITARY REGIME HAVE BEEN HEARD WILDLY URGING NEED FOR MILITARY SHOWDOWN WITH TURKEY. SITUATION HAS FCO SLIGHTLY ON EDGE.
3. AT SAME TIME EMBASSY NOTES ANDROUTSOPOULOS HAS OFFERED TO TALK TO TURKISH GOVERNMENT AT ANY TIME, AND ATHENS EMBASSY THINKS REGIME MUST REALIZE IT HAS NO RATIONAL INTEREST IN MILITARY APPROACH TO PROBLEM, DESPITE POSSIBLE DOMESTIC ADVANTAGES OF SUCH JINGOISM.
4. FCO OFFICIAL WAS INTERESTED IN SOMEWHAT CONTRARY STRAWS IN THE WIND MENTIONED THESSALONIKI'S 240. CLEAR THERE IS SOME DIFFERENCE OF EMPHASIS BETWEEN RECENT US AND UK REPORTS FROM ATHENS.
5. FCO ALSO HAS NO INFORMATION ABOUT ANY TURKISH PROTEST ON GREEK ARMAMENT TO NATO (ATHENS 2870). THESSALONIKI

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PAGE 01 LONDON 06114 02 OF 02 161636Z

42

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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 06114

LIMDIS

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE HAS NOT BEEN REPORTED TO LONDON. GREEK EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR, ON WHOM WE TRIED THIS OUT, ALSO DOUBTED ACCURACY OF KYROU'S ACCOUNT. HE SPECULATED ARTICLE MIGHT CONCEIVABLY REPRESENT TWISTED VERSION OF RECENT TURKISH POSITION THAT THERE SHOULD BE AN INTERNAL AS WELL AS AN EXTERNAL BALANCE OF NATIONAL FORCES WITHIN NATO.

6. FYI ONLY. FCO OFFICIAL CONFIDED TO US THAT FCO LEGAL AND WORKING LEVELS ARE INFORMALLY QUITE IMPRESSED BY STRENGTH OF GREEK LEGAL ARGUMENTS FOR POSSESSION OF AEGEAN OIL FIELDS WHERE THESE DISCOVERED SO FAR. ARGUMENTS SEEM CONSONANT WITH PROVISION RELATING TO OFFSHORE RIGHTS ON CONTINENTAL SHELF AROUND ISLANDS IN 1958 CONVENTION TO WHICH UK ALONG WITH US AND OTHERS IS A SIGNA-  
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PAGE 02 LONDON 06114 02 OF 02 161636Z

TORY. HOWEVER, LAST THING BRITISH WANT TO DO IS TAKE PUBLIC POSITION ON MATTERS IN DISPUTE BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY (ESPECIALLY IN ADVANCE OF LOS CONFERENCE). THRUST OF BRITISH POLICY IS THAT TWO SIDES SIT DOWN AND NEGOTIATE. END FYI.

7. IN LATTER CONNECTION (USNATO 2640, LONDON 6007) FCO IS LEANING TOWARD AUTHORIZING ANOTHER TALK WITH SYG LUNS. WHILE THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR SECOND FORMAL REPRESENTATION, BRITISH WOULD TELL LUNS THAT THEY REMAIN CONCERNED OVER STATE OF GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS AND WHAT THIS MIGHT MEAN TO NATO.

SOHM

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